THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Gary L. Johnson et al.) Group Art Unit: 3652

For: Drop Frame Refuse) Confirmation No.: 8122

Collection Vehicle)

Serial No.: 10/759,568) Examiner: Michael S. Lowe

Filed: January 20, 2004)

AMENDMENT/RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

December 22, 2006

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

DEC 27 2006

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on July 26, 2006. Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 4 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 1-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,836,316 of Schonrock. Claims 1-6, 9 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,070,382 of Pruteanu. Claims 7 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,070,382 of Pruteanu in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,836,316 of Schonrock. Claims 1-5, 9-13 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,260,316 of Gollnick in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,070,382 of Pruteanu. Claim 20 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,260,316 of Gollnick in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,070,382 of Pruteanu. Claim 20 has been

view of a combination of U.S. Patent No. 7,070,382 of Pruteanu and U.S. Patent No. 5,209,537 of Smith. Objection has been raised to claims 14-18 as being dependent on a rejected base claim.

Applicants have now amended claims 4 and 10 to make them more definite. In addition,

Applicants have amended claim 1, and by dependency therefrom, claims 2-14, to distinguish the invention claimed therein from the cited references. Finally, Applicants have amended claim 15, and by dependency therefrom, claims 16-18, to incorporate therein the limitations of claims 10, 9, 2 and 1.

In addition, Applicants offer the following remarks to address the cited art and respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of such amendments and remarks. Since no claims are being added to the application beyond the number previously paid for, the filing of this Response does not require the payment of a fee for additional claims.